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August 19, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Re: WT 11-65

As Minority Leader in the Utah State Senate, I am writing to ask that the Commission approve the proposed merger of AT&T with T-Mobile. Having considered the matter, it is my opinion that this merger would expand and improve wireless broadband in large areas of Utah, and thus would be a boon for business, education and distance learning, government services, and telemedicine for our citizens.

Much of our population resides here along the Wasatch Front. My understanding is that the merger would almost immediately create network capacity efficiencies that would improve both voice and data services in Utah's more populous areas. More important is the fact that many of our communities in more sparsely populated areas would then benefit from AT&T's commitment to expand the state's 4G service areas to cover a far greater proportion of our citizenry than is now served.

It is clear from media reports that "smartphones" and tablets such as the iPad are the fastest growing segment of the data transmission market. That means the need for more spectrum bandwidth is becoming more critical practically by the day. Even here, along the Wasatch corridor, we are seeing the networks overwhelmed at times. I believe the merger would indeed relieve at least some of that congestion, while creating new opportunities for the rest of the state. It is clear that, when it comes to broadband capacity, to stand still is to fall behind. We cannot afford to fall behind.

President Obama has set the goal of extending broadband to 98% of America's population. I endorse this goal, but fear that government resources will not be sufficient to reach it anytime soon. If the

Federal Communications Commission

Page 2

August 19, 2011

merger is handled correctly and allowed to move forward, it appears we can achieve the substance of this goal without the need for taxpayer dollars.

I appreciate the need for the Commission to perform its due diligence, and I support this effort. But I hope at the end of the day, the merger will be seen as a step forward for all of us.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross I. Romero", written in a cursive style.

Senator Ross I. Romero
Senate Minority Leader

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